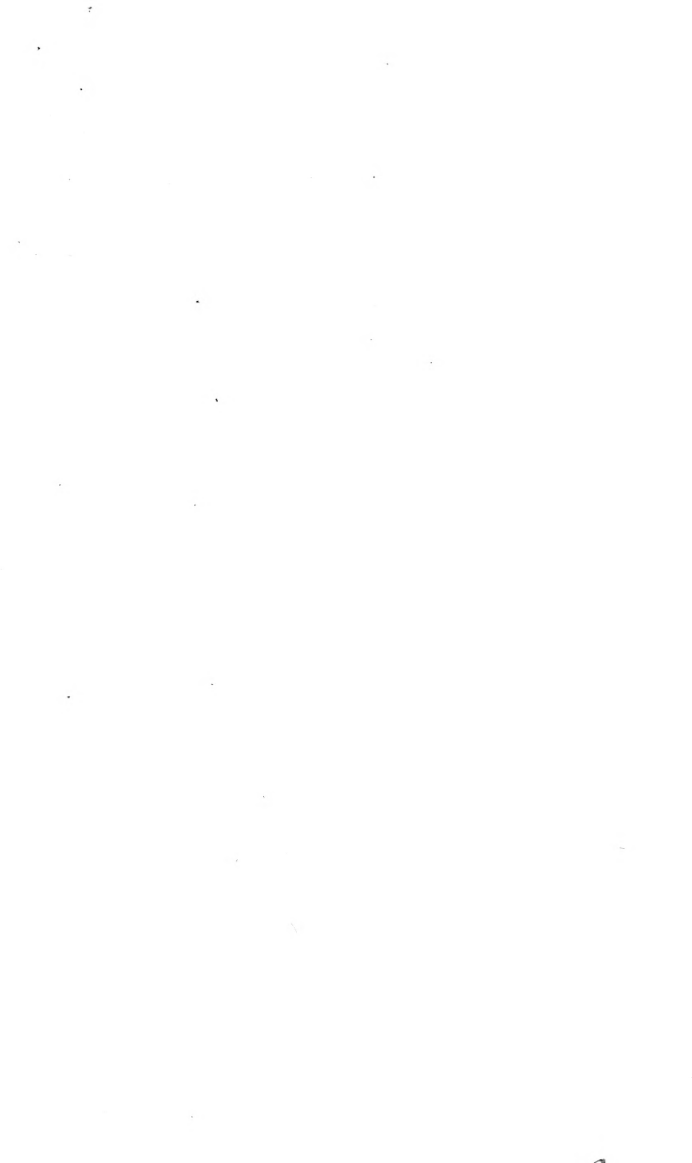




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Report of the Executive
Committee in charge of
Kane Lodge Reception
to Bro. Robert Edwin Peary,
U. S. N., and other Arctic
Explorers ✻ ✻ ✻

At Sherry's ✻ ✻
New York, April 8th

1896

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PUBLIC LIBRARY

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATION

TO THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND MEMBERS OF
KANE LODGE, NO. 454 F. & A. M.

Brethren : The Executive Committee, consisting of the Master and Past Masters, in charge of the reception at Sherry's on the evening of April 8, 1896, to Brother Robert Edwin Peary, U. S. A., and other distinguished Arctic explorers, present the following Report of their proceedings and of the ceremonies and incidents of that occasion.

The Committee organized with R. : W. : Joseph J. Little, Chairman, W. : Lilian Herbert Andrews, Secretary, and W. : Joseph Morris Ward, Treasurer.

The following sub-committees were elected and appointed :

General Committee

Alfred T. Ackert.	Benjamin Lillard.
Theodore M. Barnes.	John O. Mott.
Charles E. Bulkley.	S. Mallet-Prevost.
Edward Bradley, M.D.	Edward P. Mowton.
William Brookfield.	Frederick A. Parsons.
Homer N. Bartlett.	Charles B. Peet.
F. H. Boynton, M.D.	Francis D. Peabody.
Wesley Bigelow.	Charles L. Patton.
Charles H. Beckett.	Tarrant Putnam.
R. W. Robert Bonynge.	Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter.
J. F. C. Blackhurst.	Edward A. Quintard.
James H. Burnside.	Lorenz Reich.
L. L. S. Clearman.	Chas. E. Rushmore.
Frank J. Cuthbertson.	Rastus S. Ransom.
William W. Cook.	Charles F. Roe.
Will Carleton.	Lewis A. Sayre, M.D.
Edward W. Curtis.	Chas. E. Simmons, M.D.
Chas. T. Dillingham.	Richard L. Salisbury.
William Lee Darling.	Rufus M. Stivers.
Chauncey M. Depew.	George S. Sturgis.
Edward R. Dunham.	Geo. Taylor Stewart, M.D.
Luiz A. Da Cunha.	Noel B. Sanborn.
Joel B. Erhardt.	Thos. B. Stillman, Ph.D.
Edward Frankel, M.D.	W. Henry E. Spadone.
Robert M. Fuller, M.D.	Chas. B. J. Snyder.
Charles F. Homer.	William H. Shaw.
William H. Hume.	Joseph H. Senner.
William H. Kipp.	Horatio N. Twombly.
William Kurtz.	James P. Tuttle, M.D.
Amos M. Kellogg.	John R. Thomas.
Joseph T. Low.	Chas. F. Ulrich.
George W. Lyon.	Maus R. Vedder, M.D.
Charles C. Little.	Washington Winsor.

Finance Committee

W. J. Thomas E. Stewart, Chairman.

William Allen.	Henry W. Penoyar.
David Banks.	Christian G. Petersen.
William H. Fowler.	H. Clay Piercy.
Frank P. Foster, M.D.	Robert C. Rathbone.
Horace P. Gates.	Geo. E. W. Stivers.
Henry F. Herkner.	M. J. J. Edward Simmons.
Frederick Kanter.	Peleg B. Spooner.
David L. Kirby.	John C. Seager.
William K. O'Brien.	William D. Tenison, D.D.S.

Reception Committee

W. J. George Whitfield Brown, Jr., Chairman.

Charles E. Cady.	James F. Searight.
Chas. G. Currier, M.D.	Charles R. Shaw.
Cornelius G. Coakley, M.D.	John R. Thorp.
Alfred Ely.	W. J. John R. Tresidder.
William E. Hoxie.	David White.
Thomas B. Inness.	John S. Wright.
Edward W. S. Johnston.	William E. Wyatt.
Daniel P. Pease, M.D.	Samuel B. Walker.
John W. Sisson.	William H. H. Young.

Committee on Programme and Arrangements

R. J. W. J. Rollin M. Morgan, Chairman.

James A. Blanchard.	Richard B. Kelly.
W. J. Joseph D. Bryant, M.D.	George W. Olivit.
Henry W. Cannon.	R. J. W. J. Frederick Smyth.
Cornelius DuBois.	John Tully.
Joseph R. Ellicott.	Ethan O. Thompson, Jr.
Edward L. Goodsell.	Frederick C. Wagner.

Committee on Decorations and Relics

R. W. Royal E. Deane, Chairman.

Theodore De Lemos.	John Neafie.
Herman C. Fisher.	Albert Operti.
James F. Ferguson, M.D.	Samuel B. Snook.
Adolpho H. Fischer.	J. Wall Wilson.
William Hargreaves.	Charles Ayer Whipple.
Daniel M. MacLellan.	Charles R. Yandell.

Committee on Music, Dancing and Supper

W. William M. Hoes, Chairman.

Henry S. Boisnot.	Frank Ludlam.
Horace H. Brockway.	Charles N. Morgan.
Thomas H. Brady.	Frank Ebenezer Miller, M.D.
Frederick W. Burnside.	Charles Cooper Nott, Jr.
Samuel Francis Ball.	Ernest Lee Prior.
Walter Vail Bishop.	W. Harris Roome.
George Clark.	Porte V. Ransom.
J. Harvey Connell.	Joseph Ferris Simmons.
Allen Fitch, M.D.	William P. Stephenson.
William P. Fitch.	Eugene Southack.
William Homan.	Abram F. Servin.
Charles B. Hubbell.	Lloyd M. Scott.
Arthur Ingraham.	C. Victor Twiss.
W. Albert Knapp.	John Howard Taylor.
Henry V. Keep.	F. Sturdivant Vaill.
Alexander P. W. Kinnan.	William A. Woodhull.
Frank Keck.	Cornelius Waydell.
George J. Kilgen.	H. K. S. Williams.
Charles G. Koss.	George Flint Warren, Jr.
John B. Kirkland.	J. Van Doren Young, M.D.

Invitations to be the honored guests of the Lodge on the occasion were sent to and acknowledged by the following

Arctic Explorers

BRIG.-GEN. A. W. GREELY, U. S. A.

Commander of International Polar Expedition, 1881-4, to
Discovery Harbor.

COMMODORE GEO. W. MELVILLE, U. S. N.

Chief Engineer on "Polaris" Search Expedition, 1873, in
"Juniata," Capt. D. L. Braine, U. S. N.

Chief Engineer of "Jeannette" Arctic Expedition, 1879,
under Lieut.-Commander Geo. W. De Long, U. S. N.

["Jeannette" crushed in the ice June 12, 1881.]

Chief Engineer of Greely Relief Expedition, 1884, under
command of Capt. W. S. Schley, U. S. N.

CAPT. JOHN WALL WILSON

and

CAPT. AMOS BONSALE.

The two survivors of the second Grinnell Arctic Expedition, 1853-5, in "Advance," commanded by Dr. Elisha Kent Kane.

COL. WM. H. GILDER.

Second Officer "Eothen," Franklin Search Expedition, 1878-80, Lieut. Frederick Schwatka, Commander; also on U. S. S. "Rodgers," under Capt. R. M. Berry, in search of "Jeannette," 1881-2.

COMMANDER R. M. BERRY, U. S. N.
Commander "Jeannette" Relief Expedition, U. S. S.
"Rodgers," 1881-2.

LIEUT. GILES B. HARBER, U. S. N.
Commander of Search for the missing people of the
"Jeannette" Expedition, in Northern Siberia.

CAPT. WINFIELD SCOTT SCHLEY, U. S. N.
In command of search for the missing people of the "Jeannette," 1884.

LIEUT. NATHANIEL R. USHER, U. S. N.
Officer on the SS. "Bear," Greely Relief Expedition, 1884,
commanded by Capt. W. S. Schley, U. S. N.

LIEUT. JOHN C. COLWELL, U. S. N.
Officer on second Greely Relief Expedition, SS. "Proteus,"
under command of Lieut. (now Major) E. A. Garlington,
U. S. A.
Officer of third Greely Relief Expedition, U. S. S. "Bear,"
under command of Lieut. (now Commander) W. H.
Emory, U. S. N.

LIEUT. WM. HENRY SCHEUTZE, U. S. N.
Of the search for the missing people of the "Jeannette" expedition, and sent by the U. S. Government, upon his return from Siberia with the bodies of De Long and his companions, to distribute awards to Russian officials and natives who had aided the survivors.

LIEUT. D. L. BRAINARD, U. S. A.
Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, 1881-3, commanded by
Lieut. A. W. Greely, U. S. A., in "Proteus." The
only survivor of the Expedition who attained the "farthest north" yet recorded.

CAPT. P. H. RAY, U. S. A.

Commander International Polar Expedition to Point Barrow in "Golden Fleece," 1881-3.

LIEUT.-COMMANDER URIEL SEBREE, U. S. N.

Officer on SS. "Tigress," under command of Commander James A. Greer, U. S. N., 1873, in search of the "Polaris."

Officer on Greely Relief Expedition, 1884, in "Thetis," under command of Capt. Winfield S. Schley, U. S. N.

LIEUT.-COMMANDER CHAS. J. BADGER, U. S. N.

Officer on Greely Relief Expedition, 1884, in "Alert," under command of Capt. W. S. Schley, U. S. N.

SERGT. MIDDLETON SMITH.

Naturalist and observer on International Polar Expedition, 1881-3, to Point Barrow, Alaska, under command of Capt. P. H. Ray, U. S. A., on "Golden Fleece."

SERGT. FRANCIS LONG

and

HENRY BIEDERBICK.

Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, 1881-4, in "Proteus," commanded by Lieut. (now Brig.-Gen.) A. W. Greely.

W. F. C. NINDERMANN.

Member of North Polar Expedition, U. S. S. "Polaris," commanded by Capt. C. F. Hall, U. S. N., 1870-1, and of "Polaris" Relief Expedition, U. S. S. "Tigress," commanded by Commander James A. Greer, U. S. N., 1873.

Ice Quartermaster on U. S. S. "Jeannette," Arctic Expedition commanded by Lieut.-Commander Geo. W. De Long, 1879.

LIEUT. FRANCIS L. HARRIS.

Only survivor of Dr. I. I. Hayes's Expedition, 1860,
in SS. "United States."

CAPT. GEO. E. TYSON

and

LOUIS P. NOROS.

Members of North Polar Expedition, under command of
Capt. C. F. Hall, U. S. N., in "Polaris," 1870-3. Sur-
vivors of 196 days on ice floe. Rescued by sealer
"Tigress," April 30, 1873, off the coast of Labrador.

PROF. RAYMOND LEE NEWCOMB.

Naturalist on "Jeannette" Arctic Expedition, 1879, com-
manded by Lieut.-Commander Geo. W. De Long,
U. S. N.

CAPT. AND JUDGE-ADVOCATE SAMUEL C. LEMLY,
U. S. N.,

and

LIEUT. CHAS. H. HARLOWE, U. S. N.

Officers of Greely Relief Expedition, SS. "Thetis," 1884,
under command of Capt. W. S. Schley, U. S. N.

CHIEF ENGINEER JOHN LOWE, U. S. N.

Officer of Greely Relief Expedition, SS. "Bear," 1884,
under command Capt. W. S. Schley, U. S. N.

Also on "Thetis," in Alaskan waters, 1886-7, Commander
W. H. Emory, Jr., U. S. N.

C. EGEBERG BORCHGREVINK.

Antarctic explorer, and the first civilized man to set foot
on the Antarctic Continent ; in command of the British
Antarctic Expedition of 1896-7.

CAPT. JOHN O. SPICER.

Arctic explorer who has made twenty-seven Arctic voyages, and spent eleven winters and twenty summers in the Arctic regions.

HENRY E. RHOADES, ENGINEER CORPS, U. S. N.

Officer on "Polaris" Search Expedition, 1873, in "Juniata," commanded by Capt. D. L. Braine, U. S. N.

PROF. ANGELO HEILPRIN.

Commander, Peary Relief Expedition, SS. "Kite," 1892.
The expedition that brought back Mr. Peary and party after their first winter in the North, and after the completion of their first successful crossing of Greenland.

HENRY G. BRYANT.

Leader, Labrador Expedition, 1891.

Second Officer, Peary Relief Expedition, 1892.

Commander, Peary Auxiliary Expedition, SS. "Falcon,"
1894.

DR. FREDERICK A. COOK.

Member, Peary North Greenland Expedition, "Kite,"
1891-2.

Commander, Cook's Arctic Expedition, "Miranda," 1894,
and now organizing an Antarctic expedition.

PROF. WM. HEALEY DALL.

Commander, U. S. Coast Survey of Alaska, 1871-2, SS.
"Humboldt"; 1873-80, SS. "Yukon."

PROF. FRANZ BOAS.

Commander, Expedition to Baffin Land, 1883-4, SS.
"Germania."

EVELYN B. BALDWIN.
Meteorologist, Peary Expedition, 1893-4.

EMIL DIEBITSCH.
Member, Peary Auxiliary Expedition, 1894, in "Falcon."
Commander, Greenland Scientific Expedition, 1895, "Kite."

DR. JOHN E. WALSH.
Surgeon, Peary Auxiliary Expedition, 1895, "Kite."

PROF. T. C. CHAMBERLAIN.
Geologist on Peary Auxiliary Expedition, 1894.

PROF. R. D. SALISBURY.
Geologist on Greenland Scientific Expedition, 1895.

H. D. MACDONA.
Historian, SS. "Alliance," Capt. Wadleigh, U. S. N., in
search of "Jeannette."

PROF. W. LIBBEY.
Geographer, Peary Auxiliary Expedition, 1895, SS. "Falcon," under command of Henry G. Bryant.

PROF. WM. H. BREWER,
HENRY C. WALSH
and
JAMES D. DEWELL.
Members, Dr. F. A. Cook's "Miranda" Expedition, 1894.

HERBERT L. BRIDGEMAN.

Historian, Peary Auxiliary Expedition, 1895, SS. "Falcon,"
under command of Henry G. Bryant.

R. KERSTING.

Member Dr. F. A. Cook's "Miranda" Expedition, 1894.

PROF. ROBERT STEIN.

U. S. Geological Survey, now fitting out an Expedition to
the South and West Coast of Ellesmere, Grinnell Land.

ROBERT P. KANE.

Brother of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane.

ELISHA KENT KANE

and

FRANCIS FISHER KANE.

Nephews of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane.

In order to celebrate the occasion and commemorate Arctic heroism, there was prepared the following

Programme

Salutation

W. GEORGE WHITFIELD BROWN, JR.,
Master of Kane Lodge.

Address

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
Mayor of New York.

Address

HON. CHARLES P. DALY,
President of the American Geographical Society.

Address

BRO. ROBERT EDWIN PEARY, U. S. N.,
of Kane Lodge.

Presentation of a Masonic Flag to the Lodge.

Acceptance by the Master.

Address

BRIG.-GEN. ADOLPHUS W. GREELY, U. S. A.,
Honorary Member of Kane Lodge.

Address

M.: W.: JOHN STEWART,
Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

Address

R.: W.: & RT. REV. HENRY C. POTTER, D.D.,
Bishop of New York,
Chaplain of the Grand Lodge and of Kane Lodge.

Address

M.: W.: J. EDWARD SIMMONS,
Past Master of Kane Lodge,
Past Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

Address

BRO. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,
of Kane Lodge.

In pursuance of this programme, the following addresses were delivered, and are reported in full :

Salutation

BY W.°. GEORGE WHITFIELD BROWN, JR.,
Master of Kane Lodge.

Ladies and gentlemen : As the Master of Kane Lodge and the presiding officer to-night, it is my pleasant duty to give you all a hearty welcome here. The occasion is auspicious and its history interesting. In ages past the highest types of civilization have vied with each other in tributes of veneration for their distinguished dead ; and in time to come the love of man for fellow man shall be the full flower and fruit of the human virtues.

The noble institution of Freemasonry not only perpetuates the memories of the departed, but promulgates the moralities that inspired them and form its own sure foundations. It was therefore natural and fitting that a Masonic Lodge should be named after Elisha Kent Kane, a name now to be pronounced with the simple dignity of history. The story of his life is a fireside tale. Everywhere that we follow his adventurous footsteps we behold the man blending the enthusiasm of the scholar with the daring of the soldier and the research of the scientist. In our Order, of which he was an honored member,

he saw "reflected," to use his own words, "the cause of free brotherhood throughout the world, and that our signs and our symbols, our tokens, our legends, our passwords, are only honorable in our eyes and honored because they are a language in which affection can securely speak to sympathy, and with which mankind can safely join hands with honor." [Applause.] Bred in knowledge, trained in peril, he devoted himself to Arctic discovery, and in that pursuit fell an early martyr to the cause. But his deathless fame was established, and the nation took him to its heart with patriotic pride. A year later Kane Lodge was instituted. So it came to pass that this Lodge takes a special interest in Arctic exploration and in those brave men who tried "to sail beyond the sunset"; and such as are here to-night I salute, and tender to them, in behalf of the brethren of Kane Lodge, sincere assurances of our esteem and brotherly affection. [Applause.]

To each of these distinguished men I give, in behalf of Kane Lodge, an individual welcome, cordial and sincere; and to make this assurance doubly sure, we have with us to-night one who has been a Mason for half a century, lacking only a year. He will add his assurances to mine, and I now have the pleasure of introducing the Hon. William L. Strong, the Mayor of New York.

Address

BY HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,
Mayor of New York.

Ladies and gentlemen : One of the distinguished honors which is conferred upon the chief magistrate of the city of New York, is an invitation to be present upon occasions of this kind, and I take the invitation to be present this evening as a special honor, because it gives to me the opportunity to welcome to-night such distinguished gentlemen. I believe that I have not attended a Lodge meeting in the city of New York, so it will be unnecessary for me to say anything about Masonry to my distinguished brethren of Kane Lodge and the other Lodges of the city and country represented here. It gives me much pleasure to extend to these distinguished gentlemen a hearty and cheerful welcome to our city, as well as to this meeting. It will be impossible for me to entertain you as you will be entertained by those who are to follow me, and for that reason, and also for the reason that I myself desire to listen to them, I will not make any extended remarks, further than to offer to all these gentlemen the most hearty welcome to the hospitality of Kane Lodge and of the city of New York. We all remember, with great interest, the trips which they made to the North Pole, and are delighted that they are back with us this evening. We feel very sure that Norway is not

going to steal any of the honors which belong to our gallant tars, who, if they have not actually reached the North Pole, have gone as near to it as anybody else in the world. [Applause.]

THE MASTER: Ladies and gentlemen: I now have the honor of introducing, as the representative of the American Geographical Society, an organization which has always been interested in and often aided Arctic explorations, its venerable president, the Hon. Charles P. Daly.

Address

BY HON. CHARLES P. DALY,

President of the American Geographical Society.

Ladies and gentlemen : Addison, in his tragedy of Cato, puts this expression into the mouth of one of his characters who, with others, was about to engage in a perilous enterprise : "'Tis not in mortals to command success, but we'll do more, deserve it" ; and, at least in my generation, I know of no man to whom that sentiment more fitly applies than Lieutenant Peary. [Applause.] If he has not accomplished the great purpose in which he was engaged, he did establish the insularity of Greenland, which, by some geographers, had been supposed to be a great continent. Notwithstanding that he has not done all he attempted to do, it was through no fault of his own, but because of causes which no human foresight could have anticipated and no human effort could have prevented. In the Arctic, as in other geographical expeditions, and in other matters of life, reputation and honor follow success. Although a man engaged in such an expedition may have more ability, may make a greater struggle, and be more entitled to the recognition of mankind, he is lightly remembered in contrast with one who is successful.

Dr. Nansen, who has undertaken the trip to the Pole, the discovery of the Pole,—the getting there

and the getting back, as the Mayor has just stated it,—if he should succeed, will be immortalized and be remembered with Columbus, as long as mankind remains upon the globe ; but if he should fail, his name will merely be recorded, for the information of those who take an interest in geographical discoveries, as one of the persons who attempted and failed to reach the Pole.

Now, I have never myself thought that getting to the Pole was anything more than a geographical feat. It is not in any geographical sense a matter of much importance, but a knowledge of the Arctic region is of great importance. This is no time or occasion to state what that importance is, but I may briefly say that we shall never know for the benefit of mankind what are the laws of the currents of the air or the currents of the ocean until we know what takes place in the Arctic circle. What we want first to know and establish is the configuration of the Arctic regions. We want to know what it is, what the land is, what the ocean is, and how both are distributed. I have always thought that the Arctic is simply an archipelago of islands. I have thought that was so, for the reason that the globe is flattened at the Poles, and that in the formation of land and water from the fluid state it would more naturally break up into islands, or pieces of land separate from each other, than it would into a great continent like that of North or South America. However, a great geographer in his day, who was the editor and proprietor of a geographical magazine, greater than any other which has ever been

printed, and which has been distributed over all the countries of the globe, was of a different opinion. He thought one portion of the Arctic, that portion being Greenland, was a great continent which extended across the Arctic and embraced the whole. One apparent reason for thinking otherwise was that in other portions of the globe are to be found numerous archipelagoes of islands, and I saw no reason why that portion should not be the same. Lieutenant Peary, without any conversation with me upon the subject, seems to have come to the same conclusion himself. At all events, he thought that the natural configuration of the land of the Arctic was the first thing to be ascertained, and that then we could look after the laws of the currents of the air and of the ocean after we were thoroughly familiar with the configuration of the land. Iceland was supposed to be a continent until it was determined otherwise by exploration, and Lieutenant Peary succeeded in establishing the fact that Greenland is an island also. He succeeded, through several expeditions, in tracing it as an island up to a point where he could get no farther,—up to Independence Bay. Now, he achieved at least a result ; and as other persons are present and prepared to speak I will not consume your time farther than to say if he has failed in his last expedition to traverse the hundred miles which lie between the farthest point that had ever been reached before to a point upon the other side of Greenland which has been ascertained, because of overwhelming causes which no foresight could

anticipate and no human effort could prevent, he has at least done this—he has carried the American flag to the northern part of Greenland farther in that direction than has ever been reached before by any human foot. [Applause.]

THE MASTER : Ladies and gentlemen : Brother Peary is in his own Masonic home. To the members of the Lodge he needs no introduction. To you who have heard the remarks of Judge Daly he will need no further introduction. It is my privilege now to present him to you.

Address

BY ROBERT EDWIN PEARY, U. S. N.,

Member of Kane Lodge.

Ladies and gentlemen : Regardless of education, of occupation, or of sex, I think there is in every human heart a chord which vibrates in sympathy with the words, " Arctic exploration." For almost every one that mysterious land lying within the northern disk of midnight suns and noonday nights possesses a charm. This charm is as powerful as it is indescribable. The man who has once been there never loses the hope of going again, and those who never have been there, never expect to go, and do not wish to go, still feel the greatest interest in everything pertaining to that region.

The reason for this I do not know. Perhaps it is that the Arctic land is a land of such striking contrasts. Perhaps it is the invigorating effect of the constant Arctic sunlight which infuses the system and stimulates the nerves. Perhaps it may be that there one gets nearer to the heart of mother earth, barren and frozen though it may be, and so feels something of that intense, exultant life and strength which primeval man felt. Perhaps it is all of these. I cannot say ; but the charm is there, and that charm is felt by almost every nation and by every band of Arctic explorers.

America has had her share of these. Kane was the ideal explorer of our boyhood days, and every one knows the names of Hayes, of Hall, of De Long, of Melville, of Schwatka and of General Greely, who, through the courage and energy of his officers, Lockwood and Brainard, reached and held for the stars and stripes the highest north. However, I shall not take your time to-night by giving a *résumé* of Arctic exploration, or by discussing the Arctic problem. There are several present here to-night, each competent to speak upon some particular phase of the subject which brings us here, and I think it best for me to attempt to bring out some of the salient features of my own experience. It is impossible to cover the entire field in the limited time at my disposal.

About two thousand miles north of New York lies the western point of an Arctic land which is the largest, and to me the most interesting, of all Arctic lands, Greenland, the "glacial continent," the land of "the great ice." Its southern point is in about the same latitude as Christiania. From there it trends northward more than fourteen hundred miles, nearly to the North Pole. I speak of it as an island. In reality it is nothing but an irregular ribbon of land or mountains. Imagine, if you can, an irregular range of mountains about two thousand feet in height, about fourteen hundred miles in length, and about six hundred and fifty miles wide at its widest part, with feet ground by the Arctic ice-floe, while their crests support the great white dome of interior Greenland, the

accumulated snow precipitation of centuries. In the interior this dome is nearly level, without a single projecting peak, and the highest mountain tops are a thousand feet or more beneath its surface. It is a land without an interior. Only an endless Arctic Sahara, lifting its white expanse of snow one and a half to two miles into the Arctic air above the level of the sea.

Along the shores of that land American explorers have written their names indelibly: Kane, Hayes, Hall, and last and highest, General Greely. [Applause.] As a result of a reconnoissance made by me in July, 1886, I was impressed with the idea that this interior of Greenland offered an imperial highway over which to reach the unknown portions of its northeastern coast. In 1892 I was fortunate in being able to carry out my ideas, and succeeded in crossing the northwestern portion of Greenland from my headquarters at Whale Sound to the northeast coast at Independence Bay, near the northern terminus of Greenland. Again, in 1894, I attempted to cross the ice-cap and extend my surveys, but was beaten back by furious storms after penetrating one hundred and twenty-four miles. Still again, in 1895, I made a third attempt, and this time reached Independence Bay again, but in a too exhausted condition to allow of explorations beyond that point, and was obliged to retreat, reaching my headquarters at last with the merest margin of safety.

The conditions of those journeys were different from those of any previous journeys of equal extent

in the Arctic regions, and I shall attempt to give you, if possible, something of a clear idea of those conditions. I imagine that, in the interior of Greenland, on the surface of that great snow-cap, in mid-winter, lifted thousands of feet above the level of the sea into the rarefied air of the Arctic Zone, distant two or three hundred miles from any possible ameliorating effect of the seas east and west of Greenland, insulated from any possible effect of the earth's internal heat by a blanket of ice and snow thousands of feet thick, there is to be found the fiercest degree of cold of any place on the face of the globe.

In summer, after the Arctic sun has risen, in the middle of the long summer day, that frozen desert is a blinding glare of light ; and the soundest man, with the strongest eyes, placed there without the means of protecting his eyes, would, in forty-eight hours, be as helpless as a blind kitten. Across the surface of that ice tract the wind is blowing constantly throughout the year, summer and winter, always downward towards the coast, carrying with it a drift of fine snow which is as steady as the current of a great river. Over this expanse of snow we marched upon our snow-shoes, with that incessant horizon of ice and snow before us, and that drifting snow in our faces, till it came near driving us to madness. At times it reminded me of that old method of torture, where the victim is stretched upon his back, and a drop of water allowed to fall at regular intervals upon his forehead until madness results. During the monotonous march there

were but three things in all the world visible, and those three were the infinite expanse of that snowy desert, the infinite expanse of the sky, and the sun. The traveller across that Arctic Sahara has absolutely nothing on which to rest his eyes, nothing of interest to take his attention ; and when the clouds, which at times float from one side of the ice-cap to the other, enshroud the interior in their foggy embrace, there results a condition which I think is absolutely impossible for you to realize—a condition in which the light is the same in every direction ; precisely the same overhead as between one's feet ; and the man walking upon snow-shoes experiences a peculiar sensation of being able to see his feet, to feel the surface upon which he walks, and yet not see it ; a sensation as of being suspended and moving in gray space. There is presented the anomaly of persons in the full possession of their senses, in broad daylight, and yet unless they look at themselves unable to see anything.

Four times I have crossed this desolate Arctic Sahara from Whale Sound to Independence Bay on the east coast, never before seen by human eyes, and which, as Judge Daly says, is the highest point on the east coast of Greenland yet attained by man. As the name of the bay may seem familiar to you, I will say that I reached the cliff overlooking it and looked down into its frozen expanse on the 4th of July, whence its name in honor of the day so dear to us all. [Applause.]

Presentation of Masonic Flag

Before starting north upon this last trip of mine, I was given, in behalf of Kane Lodge, a little emblem, which I have carried with me across the ice-cap to that towering cliff on the shore of Independence Bay. There I flung it out to the Arctic air and have brought it back. It gives me pleasure to-night to return to you that emblem. It has been carried close to a man's heart, across a frozen desert of snow and ice the like of which exists nowhere else upon the surface of the earth. It has travelled over twelve hundred miles, from a mile to a mile and a half above the level of the sea, through the frozen air that sweeps around the Pole. [Applause.]

Acceptance by the Master

Brother Peary: Courage and patience, self-reliance and helpfulness, fortitude and foresight, indomitable devotion to duty, unremitting effort in the pursuit of knowledge—these prime characteristics of developed and conscientious manhood are amply exemplified in the histories of Arctic explorations penned on the spot by men who found no sacrifice too great to give their cause. Roll the storied battle-fields of the world into one, and it is insignificant beside that Great White North where the struggle of man for the mastery of nature has gone on for years and is still going on. It is pitiful, but none the less magnificent, to view the

pigmy power of man arrayed against the merciless might of nature, where the ice packs and fields are so massive and so enormous as to beggar description. Recall the boat journeys, where constant watchfulness only prevented instant death, and the land marches, marked by the blood of exhausted but unconquered humanity. Think of the solitude and the monotony of that life in cold so intense that a moment's exposure means instant freezing ! Imagine the weeks of constant polar sunlight followed by the months of polar night ; darkness so continuous and intense that the mind begins to doubt if nature will bring back the sun. Read the records of privation almost to death, and even unto death ; unselfish lives consummated in lonely graves ! But the world has become richer for these gifts of suffering ; for though there have been failures to accomplish set purposes, there has never been a failure in those higher mental and moral attributes of man that are the foundation of fortitude, fidelity, and honor. Symbolizing such associations and such grand inspirations, this Masonic flag I receive from your hands and accept for Kane Lodge as a sacred trust and a proud heritage ; and in our Lodge it will find good company with that flag which Brother Hayes planted on the east coast of Grinnell Land, side by side with the stars and stripes, in the spring of 1861 ; and with that other flag, cut out and made by the hands of our Brother Greely at Fort Conger, and carried by Lieutenant Lockwood and Sergeant Brainard in the spring of 1882 to the shores of the Polar Sea on the northwest coast of

Greenland, where it was displayed on Lockwood Island at the highest north yet attained by man. [Applause.] The commander of that expedition I have now the privilege to present to you in the person of Brother Greely, an honorary member of Kane Lodge.

Address

BY BRIG.-GEN. ADOLPHUS W. GREELY, U. S. A.,
Honorary Member of Kane Lodge.

Worshipful Master, Brethren of Kane Lodge, Ladies and gentlemen : There are times in the life of every man when his lips fail to convey the emotions of his heart ; and this is one of those times, for it brings back to me the affectionate courtesies, the kindly greetings, all those outward and, as I believe, inward feelings of tribute and honor which I have felt were not entirely my due, but which the brethren of Kane Lodge tendered to me some nine or ten years ago. Can you wonder that when I come back to this platform, before those brothers and other brothers who have joined them since, that there arises in my heart a renewal of those feelings which so impressed me on that occasion ? I come here from a recent illness, and so do not feel able to deliver anything that might be called an address, and of necessity speak without preparation ; but still I come with the greatest pleasure in the world to pay my tribute to Brother Peary, to join with this Lodge in doing honor to the other Arctic men who favor us on this occasion. I find that the spirit which initiated Kane Lodge abides with it to-day ; that it seeks out, in all directions, those men who mark the milestones of progress and of development in civilization. The man who thinks of some-

thing worthy of being done and the man who well does it merit the special honor and credit of such a body as this, and so I feel that to Brother Peary as well as to myself there was an honor, a dignity, and a pleasure which came from being well received by a representative body of Masons such as this, in the greatest city of the Western world. I feel, moreover, that I should say a word or two in way of homage to the first great Arctic traveller whose name abides, and will ever abide, in the heart of the American people, Elisha Kent Kane. [Applause.] He was a man who did justice to his own qualities, and was an honor to his country. Not alone in Arctic service, as has been well and truly said before, but in whatever walk of life he devoted his energies, he reaped some material harvest. So I have great pleasure in feeling that this Lodge did well when it took his name, a name which stands for a remarkable geographical feat in that he attained in 1853 and 1854 the highest north both on land and water in the Western Hemisphere, a nothing surpassed only by Parry in the Eastern Hemisphere. He stood for something; that which he conceived in thought was worthy to be done, and well did he do it. Other Americans have done their part—Hayes in his time, and many others—but this evening we come to another man, to the work of an explorer whose hardships and privations have touched the heart of many an American. Brother Peary accomplished something more than merely crossing Greenland. He is the only man who has ever crossed it to the northward of the Arctic circle.

He has passed from Whale Sound to the eastern coast, not once but twice. It has been truly said that he reached on that coast the highest point that had been reached on the shores of eastern Greenland, but, as Brother Peary has clearly and graciously stated to-night, not the highest latitude either in the Eastern or Western Hemisphere. In saying that he has reached the highest point on the East Greenland coast, I do not convey so very much to you who are unfamiliar with this subject. I can say that he extended the east coast of Greenland northward more than two degrees in latitude, and that he carried its eastern coast fifteen degrees of longitude to the westward. Prior to this it was known from the explorations of Lockwood and Brainard of my own expedition that Greenland ends under the eighty-second parallel, and that beyond, to the north, is an Arctic archipelago.

Now, in support of Peary's work on the eastern coast, I can no better describe to you how far he has surpassed all other men than to tell you a story which I have told once before. It is one which is perhaps not so familiar to the younger people here, but it is interesting as showing the extent of the achievements of America in different lines of research, of investigation, of industry, and of pleasure. I allude now to the great international yacht race of 1851, when we sent to Great Britain the yacht "America." As you elder gentlemen here remember, the Queen went to witness the race, and, as it was believed, the triumph of the British yachts. When the "America" came up at the finish, as in

duty bound Her Majesty was notified that the leading yacht was coming in, and she asked, "Which is first?" They said the "America." Then she asked, "Which is second?" But lo and behold there was no other yacht in sight, and so with great humiliation the announcement was made, "Your Majesty, there is no second." When we come to the east coast of Greenland, it may be well said of Peary's work on that coast, "There is no second." [Applause.] In regard to Peary's work on that coast, as of Kane's in 1851, and of Lockwood's of my own party in 1883, I feel that this is a time and an age of unremitting progress. Although they, on their part, and my men, on our part, have done our utmost, and although no man could have done more in that time and with the means at hand, yet we feel that under somewhat more fortunate conditions, in that glorious future of the twentieth century, some other men will come forward who will pick up our work where we ended, and thence go on to the goal beyond. As to this desire for progress, to this willingness to acknowledge what men have done, and believe in what yet beyond man can do, there is no more fitting tribute than the few words of Holmes where he says :

" Our greatest hope is unfulfilled,—
The promise yet outruns the deed,—
The tower, and not the spire, we build."
[Applause.]

THE MASTER : Ladies and gentlemen : I have now the delightful duty of proving the allegiance of

Kane Lodge to the grand jurisdiction of which it is a part by presenting to you Most Worshipful John Stewart, the Grand Master of Masons of this Empire State, representing in round numbers nearly one hundred thousand members, and the largest grand jurisdiction in the world. As the representative head of the Craft I salute the Most Worshipful, and present him to the audience.

Address

BY M. : W. : JOHN STEWART,

Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

Ladies, brethren, and friends : Judge Daly just remarked to me, “ Is there to be dancing to-night ? ” I replied, “ Yes. ” He said, “ That will be a very great relief. ” “ To the ladies, ” I observed. “ No, no, ” he replied ; “ to myself. ” I presume the good Judge, even at his advanced age, would delight to join in the fantastic dance.

Judge Daly : “ I am only eighty years of age. ”

As our Chief Magistrate very properly remarked that he was here to bid you welcome, so I may say that I am here simply to prove the identity of the Craft with this assemblage—the beauty and chivalry of Kane Lodge—come to pay a deserved tribute to a hero, the bold and intrepid traveller, yet withal modest gentleman, Lieutenant Peary, the youngest member of Kane Lodge.

In this progressive age we are so accustomed to the wonderful discoveries of science, that little short of the impossible seems to satisfy the inquiring mind. Wizards of our time are exploring its vast concealed recesses, and are constantly bringing to light wonders hitherto undreamed of. Darkest Africa, the sources of the Nile, the ruins of Pompeii are no longer mysteries. Man’s ingenuity, courage, and perseverance have wooed the treasures from the hidden chambers of the mighty deep. The art

of war is no longer popular ; the sword, if not converted into a ploughshare, has been displaced by the pen. The pen's superiority is acknowledged to-day, and the only warfare now is what is to be found in the daily press ; hence there is but little opportunity for heroism, and martyrdom for conscience' sake is happily a thing of the past. But our natures are such that we continually desire to possess that which is most difficult to obtain, and the Anglo-Saxon race, in particular, is restless ; so that the inquiring mind, the adventurous citizen who would attain distinction, naturally turns toward that ice-bound region where nature has placed so many insurmountable barriers to man's progress, where animal and vegetable life cease to exist, and of which to-night we have heard the interesting story, the personal experience of your guest. Permit me to suggest that these brethren, in their travels, required the teachings of Masonry to make their wonderful and perilous journeys successful. They required prudence, fortitude, temperance, and lasting friendship, the attributes of Freemasonry. Just think of how they suffered the most excruciating pangs of hunger, and still doled out their scant portion to each other, when one could have easily devoured all there was for the little party. They showed their fortitude in the great suffering they endured, yet went on and on uncomplainingly in their desire to attain the great object in view. They were temperate in all things ; the intemperate man meets with ill-success in this region as in our own. The typical features of Masonry were exemplified

by these brethren ; the lasting, unselfish friendship is simply beautiful to contemplate.

In reading the interesting stories of their explorations we find that the most wonderful evidence of unselfishness has been furnished by these brethren. He who was strong and better able to endure the suffering often denied himself in order to give to the brother who was weak and trembling, falling by the wayside; and although the pangs of hunger gnawed continually he denied himself to give to the fainting brother who was not able to stand or reach for something to help himself. What a beautiful illustration of man's humanity to man, and what a splendid record these brethren have made, exemplifying the principles that govern the great Craft of which they are honored members. [Applause.]

I must congratulate Kane Lodge. It deserves the commendation of all good citizens and of good Masons, which are synonymous terms. It has always been first in setting an example to do honor to those to whom it was due, and the history of Kane Lodge is replete with all that is beautiful and worthy of emulation. I am quite sure that I express the sentiment of all the brethren present, and I am quite sure I convey the sentiment of the ladies, in saying to the brethren of Kane Lodge that we return you our heartfelt thanks for giving us the opportunity of enjoying this pleasant evening, of which I might say the best is yet to come ; for I think they will entertain us so well that the evening's enjoyment will bring a morning's reflection of the most pleasant and agreeable nature. [Applause.]

THE MASTER: Ladies and gentlemen: The first acknowledgment a man makes who intends to become a Mason is his belief in an ever living and loving God, and our first lesson and first thought is our duty as His creatures to the Great Architect of the Universe. It is proper, therefore, that we to-night should pay our respects to the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge and the Chaplain of Kane Lodge, two in one, our own brother, Bishop Potter.

Address

By R. : W. : & RT. REV. HENRY C. POTTER,
D.D.,

Bishop of New York,

Chaplain of the Grand Lodge and of Kane Lodge.

Worshipful Master and brethren: I believe I am, on this occasion, privileged in adding "and sisters." I confess that one of the finest exhibitions of magnanimity is found in the remarkable fact that so large a part of this audience is made up of the sex who know nothing whatever about Masonry. [Laughter and applause.] Considering the curiosity of that sex—I am sorry that the remark should be received with derision [Laughter], for curiosity is the foundation of knowledge, as the great explorer whom we here to-night do honor will tell you [Laughter and applause]—considering the curiosity of the sex, it is remarkable that the Order has survived so long without an exposition of its secrets. [Laughter.] I remember very well a cartoon by Mr. John Leach, which appeared in *Punch* some years ago, in which a somewhat plethoric, apoplectic, and elderly gentleman was delineated as tying his cravat before the glass, preparatory to going out to dinner without his wife. His wife, a young and engaging-looking woman, evidently much his junior, had been interrogating him on the subject of Masonry, evidently without much success. He has just taken a degree. "Is it true, my dear,"

she says at last, "that they put you into a *coffin*?" An expression comes over the face of the elderly gentleman, as if the suggestion was not agreeable to him [Laughter], and the reader is left in an interesting state of uncertainty as to whether or not the young woman desired that he should be disposed of in that way. Such, ladies and gentlemen, are the effects of unsatisfied curiosity. I am quite free to say, however—and if I do not say it, somebody among my brethren would get up behind me and say it for me—that after thus implying on my own part a larger knowledge of the secrets of Freemasonry than that of others present here, it is only by a miracle that I have been admitted into the workings of that mysterious Order. Whenever I am invited to go to a Masonic Lodge, the first question that I ask the gentleman who usually accompanies me, and who—perhaps I ought not to say it—has so constantly and helpfully attended me in my advances to the higher degrees of Masonry that I am told it is said of me that I have explored Masonry in a "Wagner" car [Laughter]—the one question, I say, which I always ask this guide, philosopher, and friend is, "Colonel, are they going to *examine* me?" On one such occasion he replied, to my great delight, that "in this age of civil service reform somebody else is always willing to pass your examinations for you." [Laughter.]

It is a very delightful fact, ladies and gentlemen, that, in spite of the large denial which stands at the threshold of the Masonic Order, and which says that after all some men can keep a secret, this hall

is crowded to-night with those who are, many of them, not Masons, but only members of that noble fellowship which I see has recently been founded, and of which a young woman informed her mother, when she said, "Mamma, I have joined a new society." "What is it, my daughter?" "It is the Universal Sisterhood of the Universal Brotherhood of Man." [Laughter.]

Ladies, we delight to welcome you this evening to the universal sisterhood of this universal brotherhood of man, and I know I may say in your behalf that you, with us, have come here for no unworthy purpose. What was running through my mind as I drove here to-night was the parallel between that ancient and most honorable Order which is so dear to some of us here, and the distinguished brethren who are here to-night, especially the younger. There are some arcana in the institution of Masonry which it is not for the populace to penetrate. Just so, ladies and gentlemen, in the realms of knowledge there are areas that only a favored few are able to pierce. Everybody cannot be an explorer. We look at these men who have taken their lives in their hands; who have forced open the stern resisting doors, as Virgil said, of the invisible world, and who have come back to us with the scars of their sufferings upon their persons;—men who illustrate to us how great is the hunger of the human mind for the enlargement of knowledge, and how constantly stimulating are the triumphs which it brings to us;—and we are proud and glad to greet them. You and I, in a certain sense, ladies

and gentlemen, must forever stay outside the Lodge into which our distinguished guest has penetrated, the great Lodge of the North ; but in other Lodges, men like him may come back and bring the glory and splendor of those vast regions into common life, and make us, as we have been most admirably reminded by the Grand Master, richer and wiser because of what they have learned there.

As Lieutenant Peary step by step penetrated into that Arctic world of which we have been reminded to-night in his talk to us, such an exhibition of courage, heroism, and perseverance in the cause of human knowledge was a glorious inspiration.

One word more. The institution of Freemasonry and Arctic exploration have had to me another and deeper significance. Somebody said to-day : " What is the value of an Arctic exploration ? " What, indeed ! There is no commerce with the North Pole. You can't bring it back and make a mast for the " Defender " ; you can't nail the United States flag to it, and so illustrate the latest phase of jingoism. What are you going to do with the North Pole when you have got it ? It is not a merchantable product. I think the delightful part of the whole business is that it is *not* ; that there is something in the world in which you and I can be interested which cannot be made a matter of barter and sale. [Applause.] The most charming things in the world, the things which touch the human heart and ennoble human life, the things which stand for love, courage, and patriotism are not marketable products. You cannot buy them in the shop by the pound or by the

yard. I confess, for my own part, that, in this utilitarian age, I am profoundly grateful for the examples of the men who have done something for the world, and who have been actuated by other than mere utilitarian ends. They have taught us by their indifference to personal discomfort that a noble and heroic spirit of sacrifice is necessary in the seeking after the larger truths and the larger knowledge for which the world waits ; and that is the best lesson we can learn. All honor to him who is our honored guest ; and all honor to Kane Lodge, the hospitality of which has brought him here into your presence to-night. [Applause.]

THE MASTER : Ladies and gentlemen : While it is true, as our good Bishop has told you, that the universal sisterhood is not admitted to the first three degrees as practised by Masonic brethren, yet, true to our nature as men, we give to woman the very best we have, and for this universal sisterhood we have reserved a fourth degree, infinitely superior, infinitely more congenial, infinitely more binding in its results between the sisterhood and the brotherhood, and that degree we are about to work for your benefit. Our Arctic heroes will now meet their friends in the reception-room, and while personal introductions are proceeding, this assembly-room will be cleared for dancing. As soon as it is cleared the dancing will begin. During the reception supper will be served in the room below this. I am assured by the committee in charge of the arrangements that, paradoxical as it may seem,

there will be absolutely no reward for priority, nor will it avail either the tortoise or the hare who is first at the round table. This fourth degree is the last of all the series, and for to-night this temporal home of Kane Lodge is yours. We take you to our hearts; those who dance will do so literally, the elderly people more figuratively; but in some way we take you all to our hearts. Finally, I am compelled reluctantly to announce and explain the absence of two distinguished brothers who were expected here this evening. A Mason is always a good son, and we had hoped in our filial duty to demonstrate our regard for the Father of Kane Lodge, our Senior Past Master, M. · W. · J. Edward Simmons. Sickness keeps him away to-night. We had also hoped to have with us another favorite son, Brother Chauncey Depew, who expected to return from the West yesterday, but who has been detained in Utah for some reason. [Laughter.] I do not know whether it is in consequence of anything relating to the Universal Sisterhood or not. We regret their absence, and hope for their presence on some future occasion. Now, ladies and gentlemen, our home is in your hands. [Applause.]

There were over eight hundred guests assembled, and the brilliant occasion will be long remembered for its historical and inspiring associations and as a delightful social function.

The Masonic Flag mentioned has been properly framed for preservation, and inscribed :

“ Presented by
BROTHER ROBERT EDWIN PEARY, U. S. N.,
to
KANE LODGE,
April 8, 1896.
Displayed at Independence Bay, Greenland,
May 20 and 23, 1895.
Lat. $81^{\circ} 45' N.$, Long. $34^{\circ} 5' W.$ ”

A letter received and read that evening is appended :

EVERETT HOUSE, *April* 4, 1896.

Dear Sir :

As I sail for London to-morrow morning in the “Umbria” I am unable to avail myself of that invitation by which the Kane Lodge has honored me. Kindly convey to the Lodge my thanks. All that kindness and courtesy which has been shown me in the States will to me not only be a very pleasant memory, but it will spur me on in the task which lies before me. In the hope that I shall be granted to return here in two years’ time amongst these great, brave, faithful, kind-hearted friends which I

have gained, I send you all my warmest farewell. The sight of the Southern Cross will in days to come remind me of the bright stars of your free flag and of the warm, hospitable heart of a great nation.

Farewell.

C. E. BORCHGREVINK.

The foregoing report of your Committee is respectfully submitted. The report of the Treasurer will be presented separately.

Fraternally,

JOSEPH J. LITTLE,
Chairman.

LILIAN HERBERT ANDREWS,
Secretary.

NEW YORK, *December* 29, 1896.

Past Masters

UNDER DISPENSATION.

W.: CHARLES H. HASWELL. *W.: THOMAS S. SOMMERS.

UNDER CHARTER.

*W.: THOMAS S. SOMMERS	1859-67
*M.: W.: CHARLES ROOME	1868-70
*W.: ROBERT H. THOMAS	1871-3
*W.: IRA CHASE	1874-5
*M.: W.: CHARLES ROOME	1876
M.: W.: J. EDWARD SIMMONS	1877-8
*W.: WILLIAM VAN WYCK	1879
*R.: W.: EDWARD L. GAUL	1880
R.: W.: ROYAL E. DEANE	1881
*R.: W.: FLOYD CLARKSON	1882-3
W.: WILLIAM M. HOES	1884
R.: W.: JOSEPH J. LITTLE	1885-6
W.: THOMAS E. STEWART	1887-8
R.: W.: ROLLIN M. MORGAN	1889-90
W.: CLAUDIUS M. ROOME	1891
W.: LILIAN HERBERT ANDREWS	1892-3
W.: JOSEPH MORRIS WARD	1894-5

* Deceased.

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JAMES FITZJAMES SEARIGHT	Junior Warden.
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REV. ROBERT M. BERKELEY,	}
REV. NICHOLAS BJERRING,	
JAMES FRANCIS FERGUSON, M.D.	Librarian.
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HOMER N. BARTLETT	Organist.
GEORGE S. STURGIS	Precentor.

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HARRY B. MOOK	First Tenor.
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